Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a file system including at least one server and one disc storage device for access by at least one client, said method comprising the steps of:

a. attaching said client to said file system; and

b. reading a formal description of the file system by said client from said disc storage device, wherein the formal description of the file system enables said client to find and interpret ~~can determines~~ at least one data structure comprising file information ~~from the formal description of the file system~~ which enables the client to directly read and write data to and from said disc storage, block allocation for the data being performed by the server, and wherein the formal description of the file system does not include a data structure comprising file information.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step b. further comprises the step of:

reading enough information to ~~determine~~ find and interpret the physical block and offset containing a given file's inode given its inode number.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein step b. further comprises the step of:

reading enough information to ~~determine~~ find and interpret the block list of a given file given an offset into the file and a length.

4.   Cancelled.

5.   Cancelled.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein step a. comprises the steps of:

sending a mount request; and

receiving a mount response.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said formal description of the file system read in step b. is saved for future use when a read request or a write request is made by said client.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said disc storage device is located in a Storage Area Network (SAN).

9.   (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said client is located in said server.

10.-15. Cancelled.

16.   (Currently Amended) A method for reading or writing data from a storage resource comprising:

acquiring a description of a file system associated with [[a]] the storage resource from the storage resource, wherein the description of the file system enables a client to find and interpret at least one data structure comprising file information, and the description of the file system does not include a data structure comprising file information; and

determining-finding and interpreting at least one data structure comprising file information from the description of a file system for reading or writing directly to the storage

resource based on the <u>file information</u> ~~description~~, block allocation for the data being performed by the server.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 for reading or writing data blocks associated with the file system.

18.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 further including:

~~determining~~ <u>finding and interpreting</u> a block and an offset associated with a file on said file system based on a file identifier.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 further including:

~~determining~~ <u>finding and interpreting</u> a block list associated with a file based on an offset into the file and a length.

20.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for reading and writing data from a storage resource configured to:

acquire a description of a file system associated with a storage resource from the storage resource, <u>wherein the description of the file system enables a client to find and interpret at least one data structure comprising file information, and the description of the file system does not include a data structure comprising file information</u>; and

~~determine~~ <u>find and interpret at least one data structure comprising</u> file information ~~from the description of a file system~~ for reading or writing directly to the storage resource based on the <u>file information</u> ~~description~~ , block allocation for the data being performed by a server.

21.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20 which includes a computer configured to read and write data blocks associated with the file system.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20 which includes a computer configured to read and write files associated with the file system.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the computer is configured to ~~determine~~ find and interpret a block and offset associated with a file based on a file identifier.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the computer is configured to ~~determine~~ find and interpret a block list associated with a file based on an offset into the file and a length.

25. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer executable instructions for causing a computer to:

acquiring a description of a file system associated with a storage resource from the storage resource, wherein the description of the file system enables a client to find and interpret at least one data structure comprising file information, and the description of the file system does not include a data structure comprising file information; and

~~determine~~ find and interpret at least one data structure comprising file information ~~from the description of a file system~~ for reading or writing directly to the storage resource based on the file information ~~description~~, block allocation for the data being performed by a server.

26. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the article includes instructions for causing the computer to write data blocks associated with the file system.

27. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the article includes instructions for causing the computer to write files associated with the file system.

28.-32. Canceled